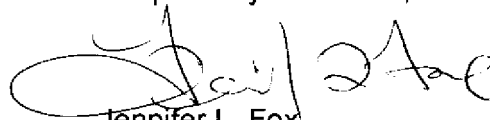


REMARKS

Following entry of the above amendments, claims 1 – 9 and 13 – 14 are pending. Claims 10 - 12, and 15 - 16 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 13, and 14 have been amended to place the claims in a form more appropriate to US practice, to add clarity to the claims, and to reduce the filing fee by, *inter alia*, removing multiple dependency. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification as originally filed. See, for example, the claims as originally filed. Applicants have amended the specification for purposes of adding the priority information. The attached Abstract has been amended to correct punctuation and more clearly summarize the disclosure. Also, the Abstract has been placed on a separate sheet of paper in accordance with US practice.

Applicant believes the present claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Applicant believes that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper other than those specifically authorized herewith. However, should any other fees be deemed necessary to effect the timely filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1392. If the Examiner has any outstanding issues with the pending claims, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (919)483-6334 for expeditious handling.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 18 May 06
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